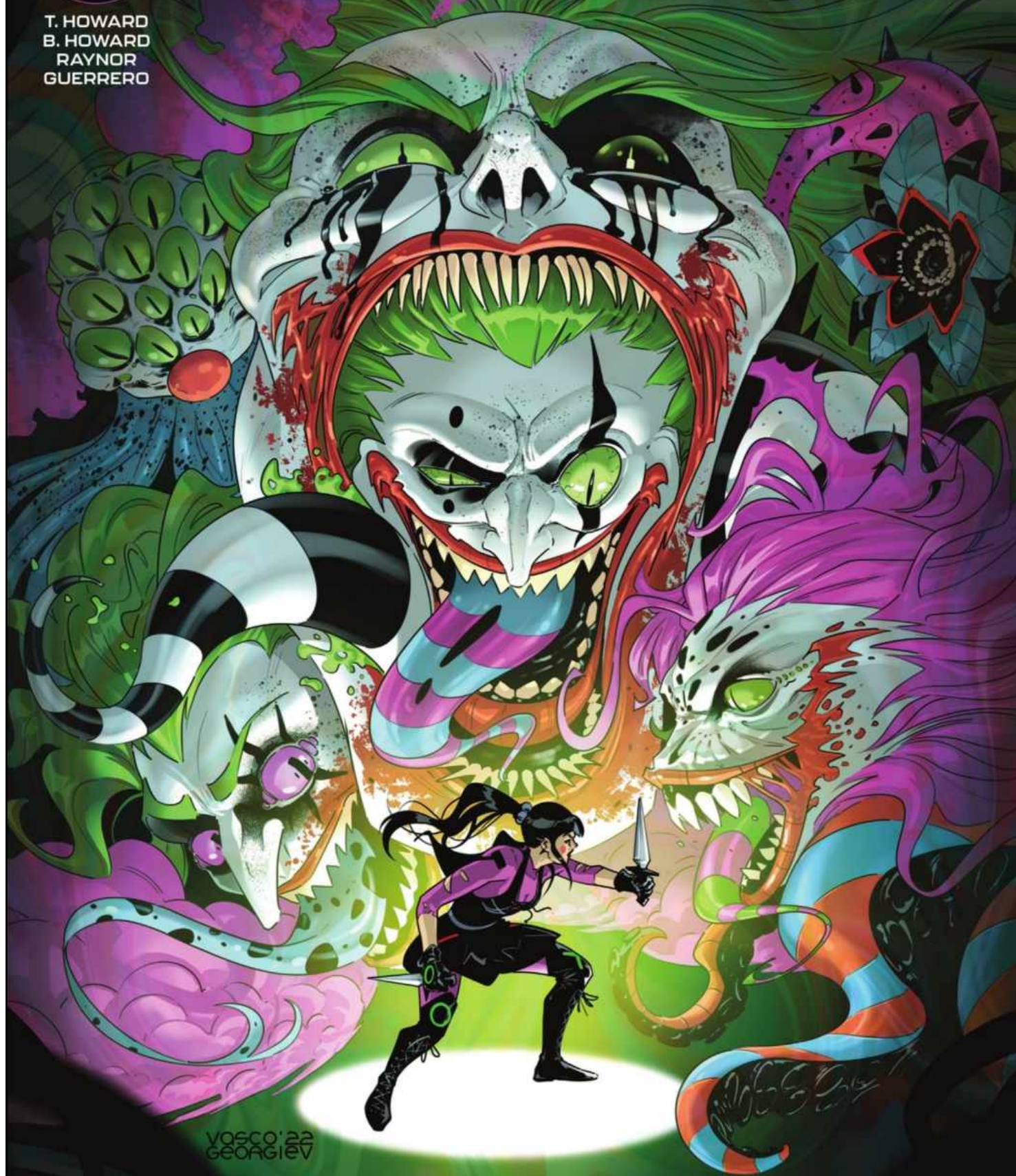




T. HOWARD
B. HOWARD
RAYNOR
GUERRERO

PUNCHLINE:

THE GOTHAM GAME

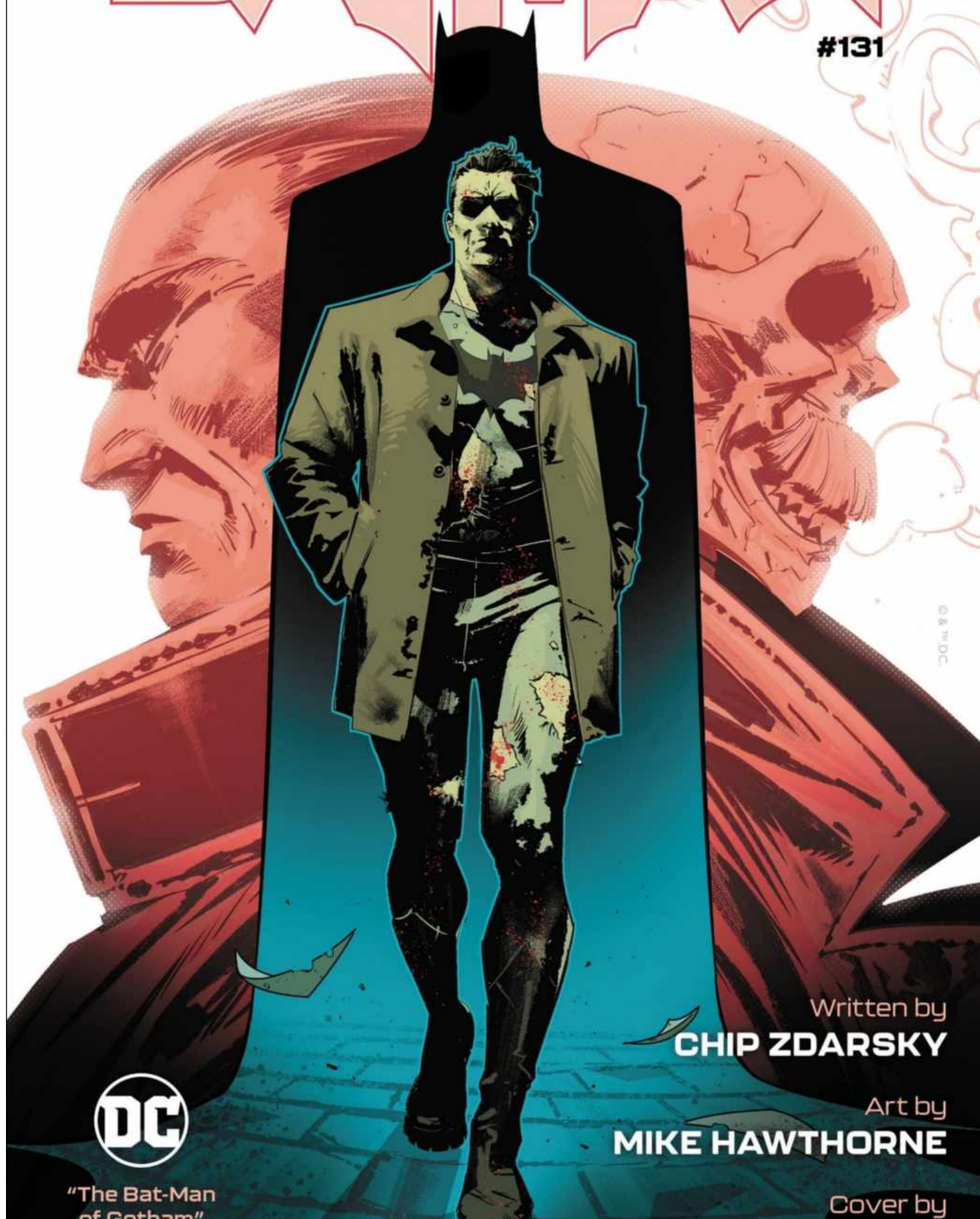


VOSECO '22
GEORGIEV

WHO IS BRUCE WAYNE?

BATMAN

#131



"The Bat-Man
of Gotham"

Written by
CHIP ZDARSKY

Art by
MIKE HAWTHORNE

Cover by





HOOOHOOO,
HEE, OH WOW, I
GENUINELY MIGHT
PEE IF I KEEP
LAUGHING.

DO
NOT LAUGH AT
MY WORK. YOU
CAME TO ME AND
SPOKE OF MY
SKILL!

WAS
THAT MERE
FLATTERY?!

YES. HAAAA
HAHAHAHA--



KING,
BABY, DON'T YOU
WORRY. YOU'RE
EVEN SEXIER NOW,
LIKE A REAL BAD
BOY.

OR, UM...
MASKS CAN BE
SEXY...?

YEAH?



BUT A GIRL CAN'T
HAVE FUN ALL THE TIME.
PLAY NICE WITH
PYGGIE!



...I'M THINKING
ZIPPERS...

HONESTLY,
THIS IS SO FUNNY,
I'M LESS MAD
YOU LOSERS GOT
TROUTONCED BY
CATWOMAN.*

DON'T GET ME WRONG--
I'M STILL MAD. BUT I'M
LAUGHING!

*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE
CATWOMAN #50 FOR
THE EXPLOSIVE
REVEALING



ALLEYTOWN...
THE FORMER
LOCATION OF
ACE CHEMICALS.

MISS! MISS!
I'M SORRY, THIS
AREA IS OFF-
LIMITS.

IT'S
ALL RIGHT, I'M
WITH THE D.A.'S
OFFICE.

I WORK
QUICKLY,
SIR.

WHERE
CAN I FIND
THE SPECIAL
AGENT IN
CHARGE?

YEAH? WELL, LISTEN, LADY, THIS
CLOSE TO GROUND ZERO, THAT PARK
IS GOOD FOR FIVE, MAYBE TEN
MINUTES, TOPS!

YOUR
OFFICE SENT US SELINA
KYLE'S INTERROGATION, IN WHICH
SHE CONFESSED TO DECLASSING
THE FACILITY. CHEMICAL-WEAPON
ATTACKS FALL UNDER FEDERAL
JURISDICTION.

LADY, IF WE HAD
ALL DAY, I COULDN'T
TELL YOU EVERYTHING WE
KNOW ABOUT SELINA
KYLE.

THAT
CAT'S GOT A BAP
SHEET THE LENGTH OF
MY ARM, AND I'M TIRED OF
THE WOMEN OF THIS CITY
HOLDING HER UP LIKE
SOME KINDA
HERO.

SOUNDS TO ME LIKE
I'M THE ONE LOOKING
FOR THE TRUTH, AND YOU'RE
THE ONE GETTING TOO
EMOTIONAL.

MAYBE I
DO HAVE ALL
DAY.

THIS
CITY IS **TOXIC**...
BUT YOU WON'T
ALWAYS HAVE THIS
LUXURY.

VERY LUCKY
FOR YOU THAT THAT
POISON IS KEEPING
ANYONE FROM
INVESTIGATING THE
TRUTH.

THAT
WOULD BE
ME. RANDALL
DICKINSON,
FBI.

VENTURA
FREMONT,
GOTHAM CITY
D.A.'S
OFFICE.

WIND
TELLING ME WHAT
FEMA IS DOING
HERE? GCPD HAS
ITS OWN HAZMAT
RESPONSE TEAM.

CONTAMINATING
ALL OF ALLETTOWN
WITH A CONTROLLED
DEMOLITION!

IF YOU
KNEW... ANYTHING
ABOUT SELINA KYLE,
YOU'D KNOW HOW
RIDICULOUS THAT
SOUNDS.

VERY
BRAVE, MS.
FREMONT, BUT
THESE **CHEMICALS**
SAY YOU
DON'T.

SO I
SUGGEST YOU LEAVE
BEFORE YOU ABSORB A
POTENTIALLY LETHAL NERVE
AGENT THROUGH YOUR
SKIN.

ELSEWHERE IN ALLEYTOWN...



"THE
GAAAAAAAME ISN'T
CLÉÉÉÉEAR."

WELL,
MAYBE I DON'T
GIVE A @##\$% IF IT'S
CLEAR TO **YOU LOSERS**.
IF THE RULES MADE SENSE
TO YOU WITHOUT ME
EXPLAINING
THEM...

...THEN IT
WOULDN'T BE **MY**
GAME AT ALL,
WOULD IT?!



THEY CAN
WAIT THEIR
TURN.



WHATSA
MATTER,
LITTLE
GUY?

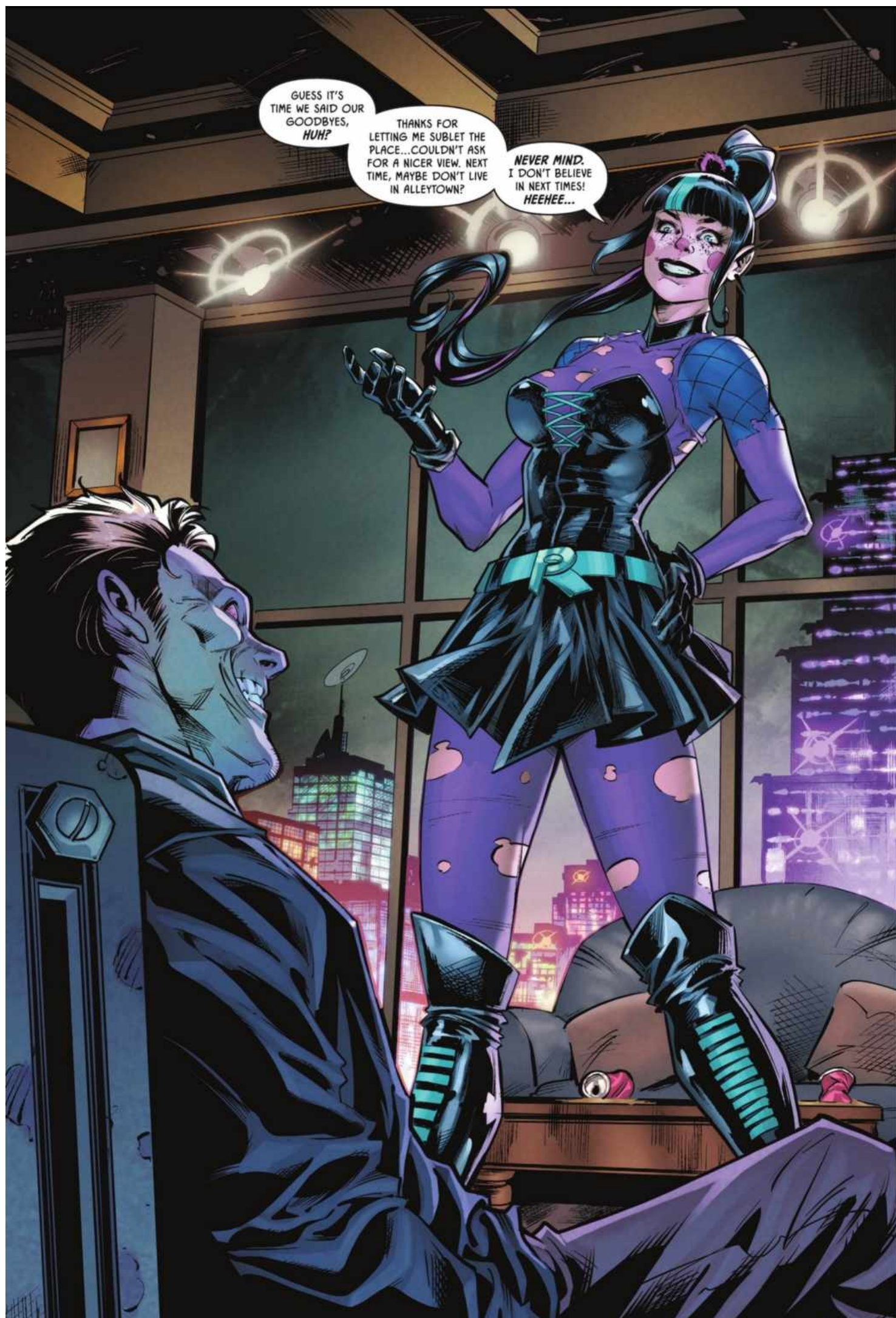


CAN'T
HANDLE YOUR
@##\$%?
LEAVE
A REVIEW,
THANKS.



OH,
THAT'S WHERE THE
FLIES ARE COMING
FROM...

...YOU ARE...
POSITIVELY
RIPE.



GUESS IT'S
TIME WE SAID OUR
GOODBYES,
HUH?

THANKS FOR
LETTING ME SUBLET THE
PLACE...COULDN'T ASK
FOR A NICER VIEW. NEXT
TIME, MAYBE DON'T LIVE
IN ALLEYTOWN?

NEVER MIND.
I DON'T BELIEVE
IN NEXT TIMES!
HEEHEE...





=GASP=

WHAT
KIND OF A SHOWMAN
WOULD I BE IF I GAVE
AWAY MY SECRETS?
HEE-HEE.



YOUR
SECRETS?
GIVE
ME A BREAK. THIS
IS JUST A RESULT OF
TOO MUCH HANDS-ON
RESEARCH AND ALL THE
XO I'VE BEEN
HUFFING.

THEN
MAKE IT STOP,
KID.



IF I'M JUST
A VOICE IN YOUR
HEAD, THEN SHUT
ME UP.

UNLESS
YOU'RE JUST
BAT@#\$\$
CRAZY,
TOOTS.



OKAY, "TOOTS"...
THE JOKE HAS RUN
ITS COURSE.

I DON'T
NEED A CORPSE
TRYING TO INSTIGATE
INTROSPECTION WHEN
I'VE BEEN COOKING
TOXIC WASTE
ALL DAY!

WELL,
SORRY TO SLASH
YOUR WRISTS WITH
OCCAM'S RAZOR!
HA-HA!



YOU'RE NOT
EVEN HERE. I'VE
JUST BEEN WORKING
TOO HARD AND I
HAVEN'T TAKEN OUT
THE TRASH.

SKREEEEEEK

I MEAN,
DON'T GET ME
WRONG! I LOVE
CRAZY!

AND I
LOVE EVERYTHING
YOU'RE DOING
FOR ME!









AAAAHH,
IT HURTS!

YOU
LITTLE
@#*##



LISTEN
TO ME...YOU'RE NOT
READY FOR THIS LIFE. YOU'RE A
FETUS. A CUPCAKE. A GIRL
SCOUT COOKIE. SO
LISTEN TO ME.



WE SHED OUR
BLOOD TAKING THAT
PLANT, AND NOW
IT'S GONE!

ALL OF OUR
PRODUCT! ALL OF OUR
PROFITS! GONE! SPLATTERED
ALL OVER ALLEYTOWN! AND
SHE'S *ACTING* LIKE IT'S SOME
KIND OF A WIN.



HEY! PUNCHLINE
KNOWS WHAT SHE'S
DOING!

"OOOH,
PUNCHLINE KNOWS
WHAT SHE'S DOING!
I'M 'JACK,' I'M JUST
A HUGE SIMP EVEN
THOUGH SHE LITERALLY
%@# MAIMED
ME!"



LISTEN...
I-I'M GETTING
REAL TIRED OF
YOUR--



NO, YOU
LISTEN.

SOME OF US
HAVE BEEN IN THIS
GAME FAR LONGER
THAN YOU. I'M
FLUSH GANG
ROYALTY.

THIS
GANG IS IN MY
BLOOD, AND IF
THERE'S ONE THING I
KNOW...IT'S *WHEN*





BLUEBIRD,
RIGHT? THE ONLY
HANDLE EVEN LESS
THREATENING THAN
ROBIN.

PUNCHLINE.

THIS IS ALL
EVIDENCE
NOW.

...ARE YOU
JUST BACK FOR A
SECOND HELPING
OF HUMBLE
PIE?*

*PUNCHLINE AND
BLUEBIRD WENT
TOE-TO-TOE IN THE
JOKER #15 --DAVE

C'MON, WIDDLE
BIRDY, GET THE %@@\$
OFF MY CAR BEFORE
YOU GET KICKED IN
THE--

PUNT

OOOF!

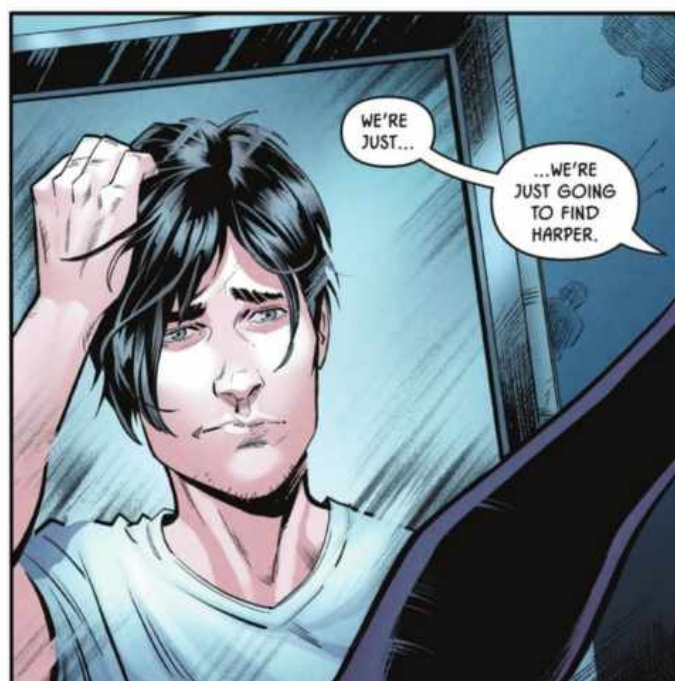
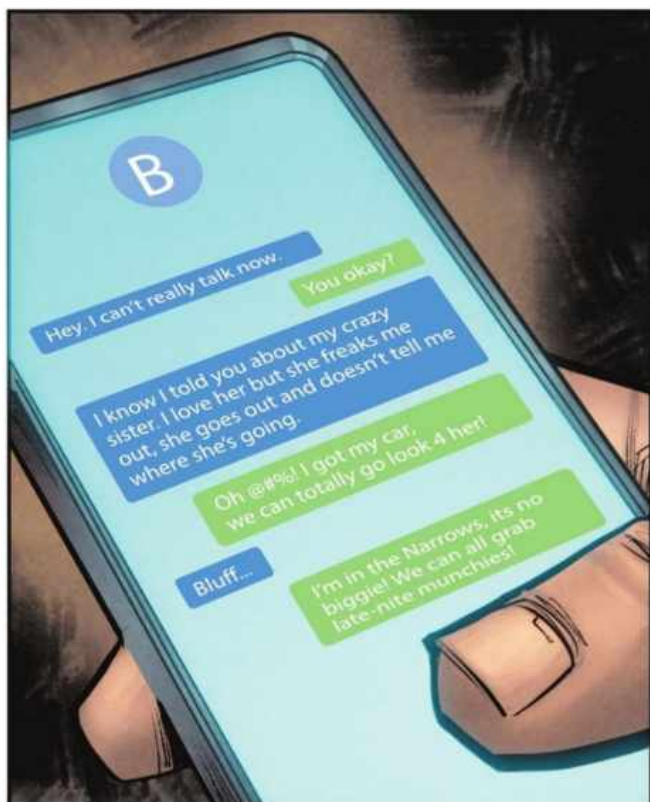














THIS IS
THE GUY YOU'VE
BEEN ACTING
SO STUPID
FOR?

MMMMPH!
MMMMMMMMMPH!

STUPID?
YOU JUST
DIDN'T SEE PAST
MY POKER
FACE.

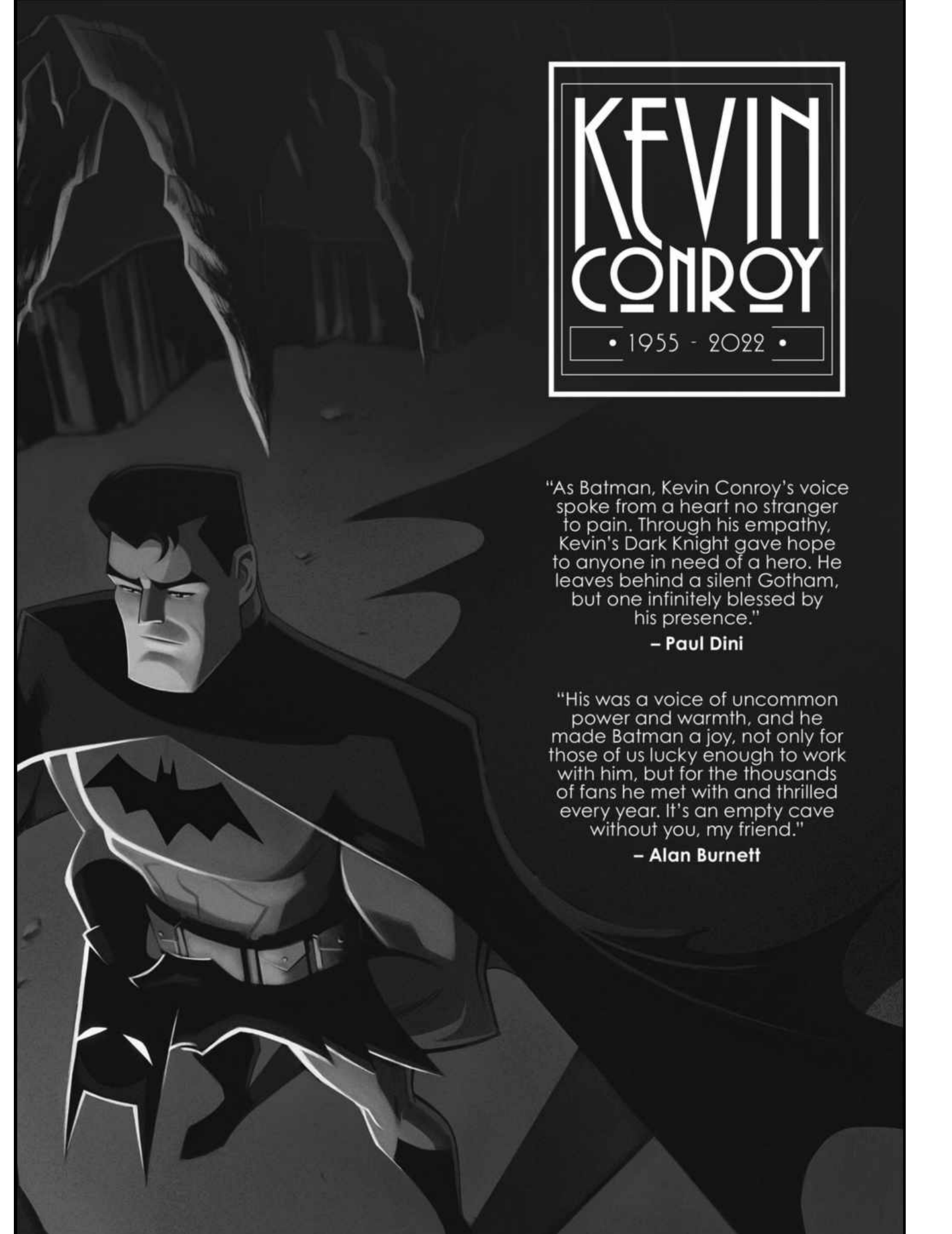
FIRE EXIT
DO NOT
BLOCK

**PUNCHLINE:
THE
GOTHAM
GAME
PART 3**

TINI HOWARD & BLAKE HOWARD **WRITERS**
MAX RAYNOR **ARTIST** LUIS GUERRERO **COLORS**
BECCA CAREY **LETTERS** VASCO GEORGIEV **COVER**
DERRICK CHEW, EJKURE, ROSE BESCH,
DIKE RUAN **VARIANT COVERS**
DAVE WIELGOSZ **EDITOR**
BEN ABERNATHY **GROUP EDITOR**

**NEXT:
STOLEN**

H
Hey
Where are you?
Hello?
???
Call me! It's okay!!
I just got a call! I ran into
Punchline! She has gone
seriously psychotic!
Call me! Plz pick up!



KEVIN CONROY

• 1955 - 2022 •

"As Batman, Kevin Conroy's voice spoke from a heart no stranger to pain. Through his empathy, Kevin's Dark Knight gave hope to anyone in need of a hero. He leaves behind a silent Gotham, but one infinitely blessed by his presence."

– Paul Dini

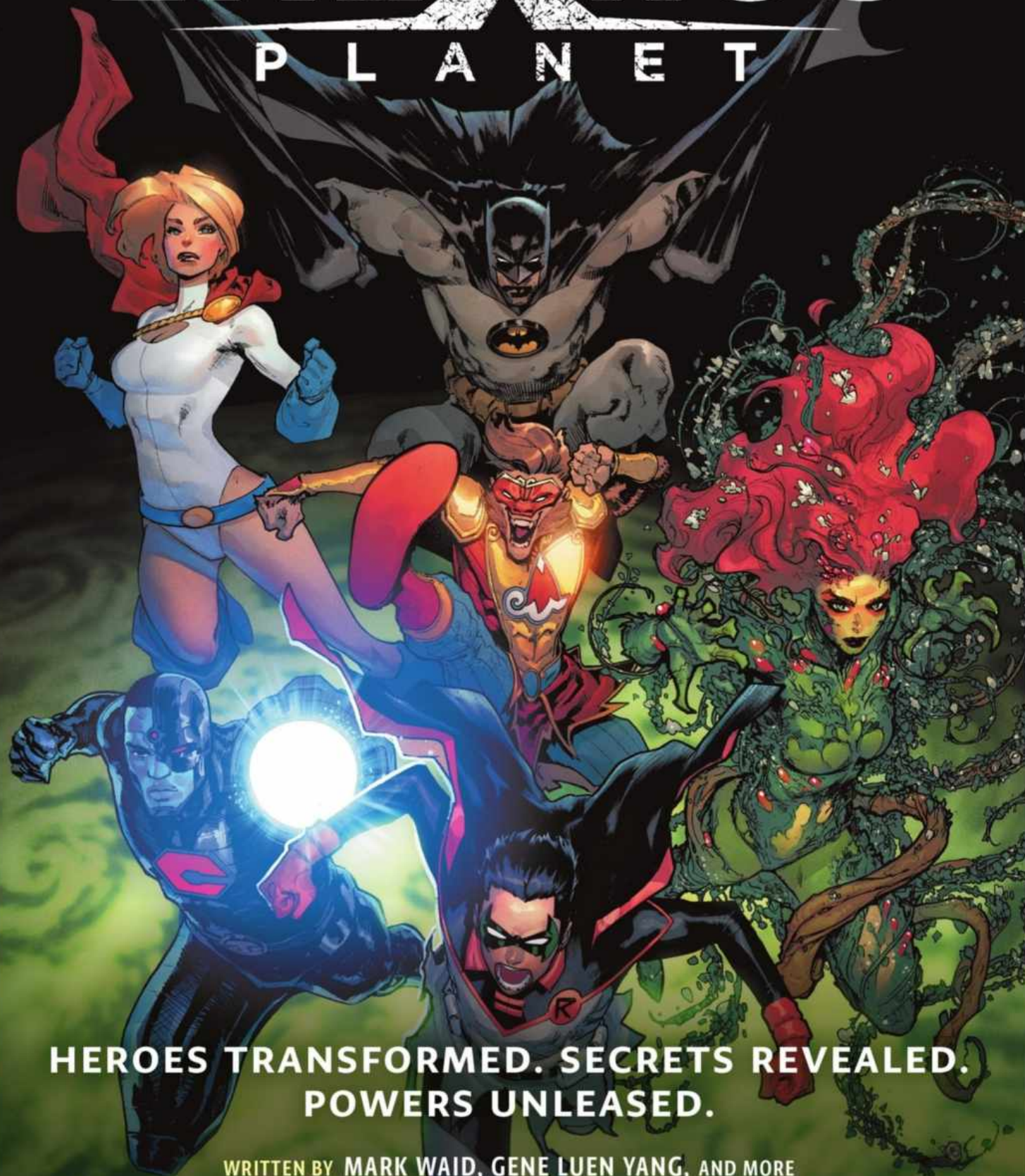
"His was a voice of uncommon power and warmth, and he made Batman a joy, not only for those of us lucky enough to work with him, but for the thousands of fans he met with and thrilled every year. It's an empty cave without you, my friend."

– Alan Burnett



DC NATION SPECIAL EDITION

DC UNIVERSE
LAZARUS
PLANET



**HEROES TRANSFORMED. SECRETS REVEALED.
POWERS UNLEASHED.**

WRITTEN BY MARK WAID, GENE LUEN YANG, AND MORE
ART BY RICCARDO FEDERICI, BILLY TAN, AND MORE





**"NEW HEROES WILL BE BORN
AND EXISTING HEROES' POWERS
WILL BE CHANGED FOREVER."**

In the climax of December's *Batman vs. Robin* #4, a Lazarus Volcano erupts, spewing dangerous and transformative chemicals into Earth's atmosphere.

"That much magic can't be contained—so when it erupts it spews out Lazarus Resin and creates a violent 'rainstorm' that covers the world," explains Mark Waid, the superstar writer and architect of the DC Universe: Lazarus Planet event.

Waid has been no stranger to the DC Universe this past year, penning the bestselling series *Batman/Superman: World's Finest* and *Batman vs. Robin*, which set the stage for this event, beginning in January's *Lazarus Planet: Alpha* #1.

"In *Batman/Superman: World's Finest*, we introduced the Devil Nezha, an ancient evil that could be contained only within the tomb on a remote island," Waid says. "Once our heroes sealed him inside, we sprung the surprise reveal—the tomb is on Lazarus Island. Then in *Batman vs. Robin*, we learn that Mother Soul, Damian's great-grandmother on his al Ghul side, has been searching for Nezha and used Damian to unleash him once more."



**"NEZHA IS A
TRICKSTER GOD WHO
OFTEN DANCES ON
THAT LINE BETWEEN
GOOD AND EVIL."**

Helping craft the two-month Lazarus Planet event alongside Waid will be *Monkey Prince* writer Gene Luen Yang. "Traditionally, Nezha is a trickster god who often dances on that line between good and evil," Yang says. "In *Batman/Superman: World's Finest*, Mark brought him into the DC Universe and specifically tied him into elements of the Batman mythos."



The Lazarus Volcano will make its rumblings known throughout the DC Universe in a series of one-shots helmed by all-star talent, including Francis Manapul, Phillip Kennedy Johnson, Leah Williams, Max Dunbar, Clayton Henry, Tim Seeley, and Marguerite Sauvage. Fan-favorite heroes throughout the DC Universe will be heavily invested in uncovering the secrets behind the Lazarus Resin.

"Power Girl is part of the team that tries to free Earth's magical artifacts from the Tower of Fate, where Nezha has imprisoned them," Waid explains. "Poison Ivy, on the other hand, is part of the team exploring one of Ra's al Ghul's mountain headquarters looking for clues to counteract the resin. Ra's was aware of her background as a brilliant biochemist who, like him, is eager to reestablish a working ecosystem before our planet succumbs to global war."

**"THE WRITERS AND ARTISTS ARE
EMBRACING THAT FREEDOM TO
DO SOME OF THE BEST WORK..."**



"The writers and artists are embracing that freedom to do some of the best work I've seen in a long time," Waid continues. "Everyone's been incredibly cooperative and willing to toss ideas back and forth to make their own stories even better."

The full scope of the story starts out in *Lazarus Planet: Alpha* and continues in the one-shot tie-ins *Lazarus Planet: Assault on Krypton*, *Lazarus Planet: We Were Once Gods*, *Lazarus Planet: Dark Fate*, *Lazarus Planet: Next Evolution*, and *Lazarus Planet: Legends Reborn*—all leading to the fateful finale in *Lazarus Planet: Omega* and the aftermath in *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods*.



After the events of Lazarus Planet, the gods of the Multiverse decide to take down the heroes they once called champions and the world they've sworn to protect.

The team of gods is led by Earth-0's wizard Shazam, who has been granted a vision from the Lazarus Resin the likes of which he has never seen before.

As if major changes to existing heroes and the introduction of all-new ones weren't enough, Lazarus Planet has a ton of surprises in store for even the most hardcore DC fan. "There's a fusion of Cyborg and Blue Beetle, a key role for Blue Devil, the mightiest bolt of Shazam lightning in history, Swamp Thing vs. Nezha, and a really, really, really ugly turn for Batman," Waid teases.

"Mark's premise for Lazarus Planet is so fun, the rest of us can't help but respond with all the creativity we can muster," Yang says. "Even as a fan, I can't wait to read what everyone's come up with."





LAZARUS RAINS DOWN!



LAZARUS PLANET: ASSAULT ON KRYPTON

Written by: Nicole Maines, C.S. Pacat, Frank Barbiere, and Leah Williams

Art by: Skylar Patridge, Scott Godlewski, Sami Basri, and Marguerite Sauvage

With the world in chaos and Lazarus raining from the skies, the Earth's protectors from Krypton are hit hard, and the heroes will never be the same again.



LAZARUS PLANET: NEXT EVOLUTION

Written by: Ram V, Brandon T. Snider, Chuck Brown, and Delilah S. Dawson

Art by: Lalit Kumar Sharma, Laura Braga, Alitha Martinez and Mark Morales, and Ro Stein and Ted Brandt

Amazing new powers have been gifted to the freedom fighters of the future. What perils will these villain-vanquishing virtuosos face alongside a brand-new legend, The Vigil?



LAZARUS PLANET: WE WERE ONCE GODS

Written by: Francis Manapul, Dan Watters, Phillip Kennedy Johnson, and Josie Campbell

Art by: Francis Manapul, Max Dunbar, Jack Herbert, and Caitlin Yarsky

The gods are in for some big changes as Lazarus rain beats down upon the Earth. Explore the Lazarus Planet's effect on DC Universe's extraordinary creatures and locations involving the Shazam Family and the Rock of Eternity.



LAZARUS PLANET: DARK FATE

Written by: Tim Seeley, Dennis Culver, A.L. Kaplan, and Alyssa Wong

Art by: Baldemar Rivas, Chris Burnham, A.L. Kaplan, and Haining

Who are the new villains created by the Lazarus rain and what heroes can stop them? A sinister threat will bring a new chapter to the Doom Patrol while a new danger lurks in the dark corners of the Spirit World for new character Xanthe?



LAZARUS PLANET: LEGENDS REBORN

Written by: Alex Segura, Greg Pak, Alex Paknadel, and Dennis Culver

Art by: Clayton Henry, Minkyu Jung, Christopher Mitten, and Jesús Merino

Heroes and villains long forgotten return! Nightwing and the new hero City Boy go on a quest to save Gotham from a surge of fantastical power that will affect the DC Universe forevermore!

LAZARUS PLANET: REVENGE OF THE GODS (COVER COMING SOON)

Written by: G. Willow Wilson

Art by: Cian Tormey & Caitlin Yarsky

The wizard Shazam has teamed up with the Quintessence to regain control of their champions. Shazam and Wonder Woman must work together and defeat the gods as they risk losing their powers for good.

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC UNIVERSE LAZARUS PLANET CHECKLIST

JANUARY

- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Alpha* #1
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Assault on Krypton* #1
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: We Were Once Gods* #1
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Legends Reborn* #1
- ☐ *Monkey Prince* #10

FEBRUARY

- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Next Evolution* #1
- ☐ *Monkey Prince* #11
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Dark Fate* #1
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Omega* #1
- ☐ *Batman vs. Robin* #5

MARCH

- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #1
- ☐ *Wonder Woman* #797
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #2

APRIL

- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #3
- ☐ *Wonder Woman* #798
- ☐ *Lazarus Planet: Revenge of the Gods* #4



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